

Jim Winslow, dba — Alaskan Arctic Turtle Tours, Inc.

A. Background

BLM Office: Central Yukon Field Office

LLAKFO3000

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF093035

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permit — 2930

Location of Proposed Action: : Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA)

Description of Proposed Action: The commercial tour operator proposes to provide guided tours of the Dalton Highway using recreation areas, public lands and facilities for business and financial gain. The applicant proposes to transport tourists in the DHCMA by passenger van with travel beginning and ending in Fairbanks. The operator provides tours throughout the year and specific activities are dependent on the season and weather conditions. Advertised activities include sightseeing tours, aurora viewing, wildlife viewing, photography (non-commercial), interpretation of natural and living history, and stops at BLM designated and managed waysides. The dates of the proposed action are from January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2017 for a term of five (5) years.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended:

January 11, 1991 **The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):**

The action has been reviewed for and is in conformance with Chapter Two of the Plan (pages 2-26 and 2-27) and also implementing action #1 under Recreation Program Objective 2 found in Appendix N (page N-19) which states “Process Special Recreational Permit applications for all commercial and competitive events on a case-by-case basis; and the Recreation Area Management Plan for the Dalton Highway which was approved on October 11, 1991.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions) :

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9 H; which states, “Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

I considered the proposed action of providing access for Jim Winslow and his associates dba Alaskan Arctic Turtle Tours, Inc. and find that there is no potential for significant impacts to BLM lands in the Dalton Highway Corridor.

D. Approval and Contact Information

/s/ Nichelle W. Jacobson

4/26/2013

Nichelle W. Jacobson
Manager, Central Yukon Field Office

Date

Contact Person

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